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**Inventors: Josephine Almeda Gatling  
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**Application Numbers & Item:**

**10/663,503 Upright Bible/Book Holder  
10/608,954 Chairback Bible/Book Holder  
10/663.275 Laptop Bible/Book Holder  
10/699,028 Bible/Book Arm Tote**

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April 11, 2006**

**To Commissioner of Patent Officer,**

**This is a grievance report. To date we have four patent applications on your files. They were filed in years 2002 and 2003. According to our records we responded to every request we received from the examiner.**

**There were long intervals when we would hear nothing from your examiners relating to them. Once we even called to see what was causing the delays. After some hunting our four applications were located. We were told that the applications were still there but could have possibly been setting in someone files due to reorganizing, or someone forgot to follow through on them.**

**We were told at that time the examiners would be notified. Yet again for a period of time we heard nothing. Even one of the examiners admitted that he had come across our application and wondered why "it was just setting there".**

**We assumed that someone must have started checking old applications because recently we began getting letters of abandonment of our applications and/or threats to abandon. We were stunned because we just thought the examiners had so many applications that it took a long time to get back to us. Since then we learned that it should possibly take no more than**

**eighteen months for your examiners to complete them, but rarely three to four years.**

**The price of four non provisional and four provisional may not sound like much money to some, but to us it was a lot of money. Now we received a letter stating that we needed to submit \$1080.00 to stop abandonment of one application, # 10/663,503. We have been corresponding with this examiner lately and had just completed the last changes necessary to be made as requested for claims section. We contacted the examiner for this application concerning problem and was told that our last reply was due January 23, 2006 and was late arriving. We informed him that we had postal receipts verifying that reply was mailed on January 17 from Hampton, Virginia. It was then suggested that we talk to some one in the petition office. We called the petition office and discussed concerns with Mr. Dingle, who suggested there was a possible chance that the submission arrived just before a weekend and was scanned late. Also Mr. Dingle suggested that we call the examiner and talk to him again. The examiner then informed us that the time for completion had collapsed and there was nothing more he could do. He also said that our compliance was not signed and was therefore unacceptable. We are confused, because we have been submitting replies for each application and no one else to date has turned them down, or told us we needed to sign them.**

**Number 2 - Application # 10/608,954 was abandoned because the examiner said that there had been no reply to his request due June 14, 2005. Due to vision difficulties one of us failed to copy the correct application number on the submission (first time), therefore the examiner failed to receive it. Prior to this notice dated January, 2006 we had received no notice regarding that that our reply was late, or according to your records we had not replied. We also have postage receipts**

confirming mailing date. We realized how necessary it was for us to reply to each request and did not fail to reply to every one we received. Due to a mistake with your examiner we received a Notice of Abandonment for this application 11/23/04. Then 12/06/04 we received a withdrawal of this notice stating it was sent in error and regretted any inconvenience the error may have caused us. Prior to this we had been accused of not replying to another request dated February of 2004, which we had done. Therefore we had to send proof of timely response with attached response information and U.S. Postal receipt. Mrs. Young corrected this mistake the examiner had made. Also we received a date of publication of this item 03/17/05.

**Number 3. – Application # 10/699,028**

Prior to 2006 we had received minimal correspondence from the patent examiner for this application regarding what changes were needed to complete it. Evidently this was one of the applications someone must have stumbled upon because we received a letter advising us of our application being removed from the examination process. We were advised by Mrs. Rawls in January, 2006 to pay a fee of \$60.00 to have this application reinstated, which we did dated January 26, 2006. We were told that an examiner would contact us. To date we have received no further correspondence to this item.

**Number 4. - Application #10/663,275**

To date we have received very limited correspondence from examiner regarding this application. All correspondence we received from your office was in 2003 and 2004. According to our records we received only three correspondence requesting changes during this calendar time, which we did comply. We had no idea what had happened to this application until someone there evidently discovered it.

**This has been a very discouraging affair for us. The good thing out of this all is that we have learned to fulfill correctly needed components of patent writing. (See application #10/663,503 with final changes).**

**We need very much your assistance in getting these four restored into your system so that we can complete them, or at least be given the chance that as you can see was not provided to us.**

**Also, we hope that these long, long intervals of the examiners not corresponding at all with the applicants be adjusted. We do believe our bringing awareness of the over extended time that the examiners hold onto applications with limited correspondence will help future applicants.**

**Thank you very much for your much needed assistance.**

**Inventor** Josephine A. Fathing **Date** 5-3-06

**Inventor** Hilda Virginia Minter **Date** 5-3-06